

In re application of KRAMER, M.  
Appln. No.: 09/787,559  
Examiner: Angell, J.  
Page 2 of 10

### AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

#### Listing of Claims:

1. (Cancelled).
2. (Currently Amended). An isolated nucleic acid encoding a protein which is functionally identical to a protein that occurs naturally in human keratinocytes and is increasingly expressed when keratinocytes are in an activated state as compared to non-activated keratinocytes,

wherein said protein has a nucleotide sequence indicated in either the SEQ ID NO:1 sequence protocol or the SEQ ID NO:4 sequence protocol,

or a nucleotide sequence complementary to one of SEQ ID NO: 1 or SEQ ID NO: 4,

or, wherein one or more uridine (U) nucleic acids are substituted for thymidine (T) nucleic acid bases in SEQ ID NO: 1 or SEQ ID NO: 4,

~~or a partial sequence of one of these two indicated or complementary nucleotide sequences, said partial sequence comprising more than 8 nucleotides,~~

~~or a nucleotide sequence that hybridizes to at least about 8 nucleotides under conventional stringent hybridization conditions to SEQ ID NO: 1 or SEQ ID NO: 4 or hybridizes completely with SEQ ID NO: 1 or SEQ ID NO: 4 under low stringent conditions.~~

{WF297997;1}

In re application of KRAMER, M.  
Appln. No.: 09/787,559  
Examiner: Angell, J.  
Page 3 of 10

3. (Previously presented). The isolated nucleic acid according to claim 2 wherein the nucleic acid is obtained from a natural, synthetic or half-synthetic source.
4. (Cancelled).
5. (Cancelled).
6. (Cancelled).
7. (Cancelled).
8. (Previously presented). A recombinant DNA vector molecule, which encompasses a nucleic acid according to claim 2, said DNA vector molecule expressing protein pKe#122, in a prokaryotic or eukaryotic cell.
9. (Previously presented). The recombinant DNA vector molecule according to claim 8, wherein the vector molecule is the plasmid pUEX-1 or pGEX-2T or pBK-CMV or pHR2.
10. (Previously presented). A transformed host cell containing a nucleic acid according to claim 2, which is coupled with an activatable promoter contained in the host cell naturally or as the consequence of a recombination, and which has the ability to express a protein that occurs in human keratinocytes and is increasingly expressed when the keratinocytes are in an activated state, in particular protein pKe#122.
11. (Previously presented). The transformed host cell containing a nucleic acid according to claim 2, which is coupled with an activatable promoter contained in the host cell naturally or as the consequence of a recombination, and which has the ability to express a protein that occurs in human keratinocytes and is increasingly expressed when the keratinocytes are in an activated state, in particular protein pKe#122.

{WP297997;1}

In re application of KRAMER, M.  
Appln. No.: 09/787,559  
Examiner: Angell, J.  
Page 4 of 10

Claims 12-16. (Cancelled).

17. (Previously presented). A reagent for the indirect detection of a protein that occurs in human keratinocytes, said protein being increasingly expressed in activated keratinocytes as compared to non-activated keratinocytes, in particular protein pKe#122, wherein the reagent encompasses at least one nucleic acid according to claim 2.

18. (Cancelled).

Claim 19. (Cancelled).

20. (Cancelled)..

Claim 21-23. (Cancelled).

24. (Currently amended). A reagent for the indirect detection of a protein that occurs in human keratinocytes, said protein being increasingly expressed in activated keratinocytes as compared to non-activated keratinocytes, in particular protein pKe#122, wherein the reagent encompasses at least one nucleic acid ~~according to claim 6, wherein the nucleic acid is a splice variant, which hybridizes with the nucleotide sequence indicated in sequence protocol SEQ ID NO: 1 or in sequence protocol SEQ ID NO: 4.~~

Claims 25-28. (Cancelled).

{WP297997:1}